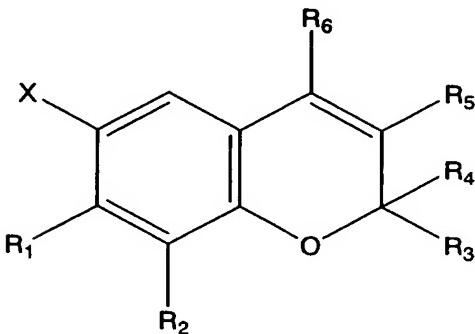


CLAIMS

1. A hair growth stimulant comprising at least one chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) as an active ingredient:



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wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each independently -H, -OH, or -OR wherein R is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group; R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are each independently -H, or a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group; R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are each independently -H, a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group, or an optionally substituted phenyl group; and X is -CH(OH)R<sub>7</sub>, or -C(=O)R<sub>7</sub> wherein R<sub>7</sub> is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group or an optionally substituted phenyl group.

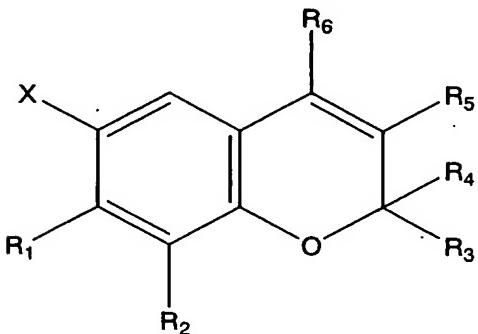
2. The hair growth stimulant according to Claim 1,  
15 wherein the chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of methylripariochromene A (6-acetyl-7,8-dimethoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene), acetovanillochromene (6-acetyl-8-methoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene), and orthochromene A (6-(1-hydroxyethyl)-7,8-dimethoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene).

3. The hair-restoring preparation for external use comprising the hair growth stimulant of Claim 1 or 2.

25 4. The hair-restoring preparation for oral use comprising the hair growth stimulant of Claim 1 or 2.

5. The hair-restoring food comprising the hair growth stimulant of Claim 1 or 2.

6. A method for preparing a hair growth stimulant containing at least one chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) as an active ingredient,



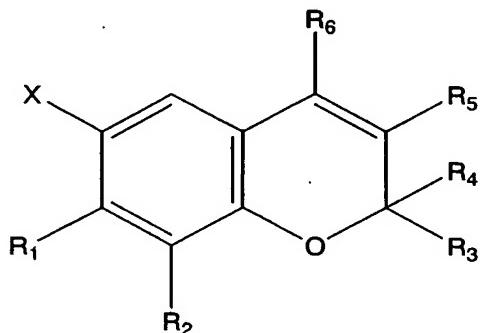
wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each independently -H, -OH, or -OR wherein R is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group; R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are each independently -H, or a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group; R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are each independently -H, a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group, or an optionally substituted phenyl group; and X is -CH(OH)R<sub>7</sub>, or -C(=O)R<sub>7</sub> wherein R<sub>7</sub> is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group or an optionally substituted phenyl group; the method comprising steps (i) and (ii):

(i) obtaining a chromene compound-containing extract by contacting a solvent with at least one plant selected from the group consisting of plants of the genus *Orthosiphon* in the family Lamiaceae, plants of the genus *Eupatorium* in the family Asteraceae, and plants of the genus *Stevia* in the family Asteraceae; and

20 (ii) isolating a chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) from the extract obtained in (i).

7. The method for preparing a hair growth stimulant according to Claim 6, wherein the chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of methylripariochromene A (6-acetyl-7,8-dimethoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene), acetovanillochromene (6-acetyl-8-methoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene), and orthochromene A (6-(1-hydroxyethyl)-7,8-dimethoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene).

8. A hair-restoring method comprising the step of contacting an effective amount of a hair growth stimulant containing at least one chromene compound represented by  
5 Structural Formula (1) as an active ingredient with hair tissue:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each independently -H, -OH, or -OR wherein R is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group; R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are each independently -H, or a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group; R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are each independently -H, a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group, or an optionally substituted phenyl group; and X is -CH(OH)R<sub>7</sub>, or -C(=O)R<sub>7</sub> wherein R<sub>7</sub> is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group or an optionally substituted phenyl group.  
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